

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19 and 22.

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 6, line 1, delete "5" and add --1--; lines 1-2, delete "wherein the aperture is on the flexible tube and"; and line 3, delete "flexible tube" and add --casing--.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "11" and add --1--.

Claim 18, line 3, delete "flexible tube" and add --casing--.

Claim 20, line 1, delete "17" and add --16--; and line 3, delete "the" and add --a--.

Rewrite Claims 1 and 16 as follows:

1. [Amended] A guidewire advancement device comprising:
- a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end;
- a [flexible tube] casing for holding the guidewire, the [flexible tube] casing being formed in a loop and having [a port] an outlet;
- [a housing having an opening for feeding the guidewire through, the housing being coupled to a distal end of the flexible tube, and the housing having a straightener thereon that includes] a [straightener tube] straightening element having a guidewire exit point and a tube portion adjacent the guidewire exit point, the tube portion formed [length and diameter] to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire as the guidewire is passed through the [straightener tube] tube portion, the straightening element being connected to the casing at the guidewire exit point; and
- an [access mechanism] aperture on said straightening element to expose a portion of the guidewire [positioned] and through which the portion of the guidewire can be

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manually engaged, the aperture being located between the outlet of the casing and the tube portion of the straightening element.

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16. [Amended] A guidewire advancement device [for a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end, the guidewire advancement device] comprising:

a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end;

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a [flexible tube] casing for holding the guidewire, the casing being formed in a loop and having a portion extending beyond the loop, the portion extending to an end port;

[a housing having housing tube for receiving the guidewire, the guidewire extending through a first end of the housing and through the second end of the housing;]

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an aperture in the casing to expose a [portion] length of the guidewire [positioned in the flexible tube] and through which the [portion] length of the guidewire can be manually engaged in order to displace the guidewire relative to the end port, the aperture positioned near the end port of the casing; and

a straightener that is connected to the [housing tube and] casing at the end port, which receives the guidewire displaced through the [housing] casing, the straightener including a straightener tube having a length and diameter to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire.

Add Claims 23 as follows:

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--23. The guidewire advancement device of Claim 16 wherein the portion of the casing extending from the loop extends tangentially from the loop.--